

Sub
B2

- 5

0-40% fat or oil,

5-25% sugar

5-20% water, and

1-5% salt

said carrier having an A_w of about 0.60 to 0.75.

- Sub
B³

5. The carrier of claim 1 wherein the ~~pregelatinized~~ starch content is about 15%.

6. The carrier of claim 1 wherein the active ingredient is a pharmaceutical.

7. The carrier of claim 1 wherein the active ingredient is a nutraceutical.

8. The carrier of claim 1 wherein the active ingredient is a vitamin and mineral mix.

9. The carrier of claim 1 where the A_w is 0.65 and the active ingredient is aspirin.

10. The carrier of claim 1 wherein the polyhydric alcohol is sorbitol.

11. The carrier of claim 1 wherein the sugar content is about 15%.

12. A method of making a carrier for an active ingredient for use in an oral administration of the active ingredient, comprising the steps of:

a) forming a matrix by mixing

10-50% starch,

0-40% fat or oil,

10-50% polyhydric alcohol,

5-25% sugar,

5-20% water, and

1-5% salt

b) adjusting the relative amounts of polyhydric alcohol and water to control the A_w of said carrier;

whereby the controlled A_w permits the moisture in the carrier to be at a level not inimical to the active ingredient.

864250-8T909T60

5

10

Sub
B4

a 10
13.

The method of claim ⁹~~10~~ including adjusting the water content to about 10%.

a 11
14.

The method of claim ⁹~~10~~ including adjusting the polyhydric alcohol content to about 40%.

a 12
15.

The method of claim ⁹~~10~~ including adjusting the starch content to about 32%.

a 13
16.

The method of claim ⁹~~10~~ including adjusting the sugar content to about 15%.

a 17.

The method of claim ¹²~~10~~ including adjusting the pregelatinized starch content is ~~about 15%.~~

a 15
18.

The method of claim ⁹~~10~~ including the step of mixing in a pharmaceutical.

a 16
19.

The method of claim ⁹~~10~~ including the step of mixing in a nutraceutical.

a 17
20.

The method of claim ⁹~~10~~ including the step of mixing in a vitamin and mineral mix.

a 18
21.

The method of claim ⁹~~10~~ including the step of adding sorbitol.

1354250-813260

864260" BT909T60

a

~~19~~
~~22~~

~~9~~
~~12~~

15

The method of claim ~~10~~ including the step of controlling the A_w to be at about 0.60 to about 0.75.

a

~~20~~
~~23~~

~~9~~
~~12~~

The method of claim ~~10~~ including the step of adding aspirin as the active ingredient and controlling the A_w of said carrier to about 0.65.

add
B₆
add
C₃

add
D₃